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Former Teacher Sentenced to Prison for Lewd Acts

A former teacher was sentenced today to two years in state prison and ordered to register as a sex offender for life, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Bradley Roberts said Juan Ramon Cardoza, 56, of Downey, pleaded no contest on Nov. 21, 2013 to two counts of lewd act upon a child of 14 or 15 years.

Cardoza was sentenced at a morning hearing by Judge Eleanor Hunter at the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Compton Branch.

Evidence presented at a preliminary hearing in July 2013 revealed that the defendant sexually abused four female students at New Designs Charter School in Los Angeles. The abuse, which involved one 13-year-old and three 14-year-old girls, occurred at the school from January 2010 to March 2013.

Cardoza is scheduled to return to court for a restitution hearing on April 2.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.